

Statement on the National Commission to Ensure a Strong Competitive Airline Industry *April 29, 1993*

Today I am, in conjunction with the bipartisan congressional leadership, releasing the names of the members of the National Commission to Ensure a Strong and Competitive Airline Industry.

This Commission will enable us to start planning the revitalization of one of our country's most important industries, one of our most important exporters, one of our Nation's most important employers: the aircraft manufacturers and carriers that have been the pride of the United States and the world's leaders since the beginning of aviation. I pledge that this Commission will have the full resources of every Agency of the Federal Government at its disposal.

Each of the individuals on this Commission brings a strong record of accomplishment in his or her field, together with a keen sense of the importance of aviation in a global economy. Each of them has demonstrated the ability to look toward the future and the energy and intellect to shape the course of the current airline debate.

I would like to thank the bipartisan congressional leadership for their support and leadership in creating this Commission and in selecting persons of such high caliber.

The Chairman of the Commission will be an old friend and former colleague of mine, former Virginia Governor Gerald L. Baliles. Perhaps no other Governor in the past decade devoted more thought and attention to the global nature of the challenges facing his State. Governor Baliles always recognized that the nature of competition had changed fundamentally and that any strategy to shape that change must be rooted in a vision extending beyond our borders. He recognized that aviation is the lifeblood of commerce in a global economy and made it an important part of his State's competitiveness strategy. That is what we must do now at a national level.

As the legislation creating this Commission was debated in Congress, it became clear that there are many different explanations of why our airline carriers and manufacturers are facing such financial difficulty. And those issues will be debated. But it will be valuable for the Com-

mission to take a step back from that debate and examine the context in which the aviation industry operates. To the extent the Commission can help us understand how we got to where we are today and provide a vision for a competitive future, it will have rendered an invaluable service. I look forward to receiving their report and pledge the full cooperation of my entire administration in their work.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary announced the membership of the Commission as follows:

Members appointed by the President:

Gerald L. Baliles, partner, Hunton & Williams, and former Governor of Virginia, Richmond, VA (Chair)
Bette B. Anderson, president, Kelly, Anderson and Associates, Inc., Washington, DC
Sylvia A. de Leon, partner, Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer and Feld, Washington, DC
Herbert D. Kelleher, chief executive officer, Southwest Airlines, Dallas, TX
Gina F. Thomas, managing attorney for international and regulatory affairs, Federal Express Corp., Memphis, TN

Members appointed by the Senate:

Charles "Chip" M. Barclay, president, American Association of Airport Executives, Washington, DC
Robert F. Daniell, chief executive officer, United Technologies, West Hartford, CT
Felix G. Rohatyn, managing partner, Lazard Freres and Co., New York, NY
Russell W. Meyer, Jr., chairman and chief executive officer, Cessna Aircraft Company, Wichita, KS
Abraham D. Sofaer, partner, Hughes, Hubbard and Reed, Washington, DC

Members appointed by the House:

Captain J. Randolph Babbitt, president, Airline Pilots Association (ALPA), Oakton, VA
John Peterpaul, vice president, International Association of Machinists (IAM), Silver Spring, MD
Sandra Pianalto, first vice president, Federal Reserve Bank, Cleveland, OH

John E. Robson, Lister Crown distinguished faculty fellow, Yale University, New Haven, CT

Daniel M. Kasper, director of transportation practice, Harbridge House, Inc., Boston, MA

Ex officio (nonvoting) members:

Laura D'Andrea Tyson, Chair, President's Council of Economic Advisers, CA

Senator J. James Exon, NE
Senator Ernest Hollings, SC
Senator Patty Murray, WA
Senator John Danforth, MO
Senator Slade Gorton, WA
Representative Richard Gephardt, MO
Representative Robert Borski, PA
Representative Maria Cantwell, WA
Representative Newt Gingrich, GA
Representative Bud Shuster, PA

Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session on National Service in New Orleans, Louisiana

April 30, 1993

The President. Thank you. It's good to see you. How many of you are students here? Okay. And how many of you are in the Delta Service Corps? And then, who's here from Teach For America? That's good. I've got it.

Let me, first of all, say how delighted I am to be here and how much I appreciate all of you taking a little time out to talk with me. You probably know that I am going from here over to the University of New Orleans to speak about the national service plan and the new direct loan plan for college students that will be announced today and will be introduced shortly into the Congress.

I have with me today Senator Johnston and many Members of your congressional delegation and your Lieutenant Governor and many State officials here and some people who have come all the way from Washington to be with us, the Secretary of Education and Gen. David Jones, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a lot of people who believe in you and your future and all the other young people in this country.

What I wanted to do today is to try to sort of set the stage for this speech that I'm going to go give and also to listen to you a little bit about the kinds of things that you do now: Why did you get into this service? Do you believe if there were more opportunities, more young people would do it?

This program we're going to propose will provide opportunities for tens of thousands of young people to work before, during, or after college to build up credit against a college edu-

cation or, if they do it afterward, to pay off their college loans. It will also change the way young people borrow money to go to college so that you won't have to pay money back that you can't afford to pay back. Even if you borrow a lot of money to go to college, you'll always pay it back as a percentage of your income, so that people will be able to, and if you're not working, you don't have to pay it back. Then you pay it back as you work. But we're going to use the tax system and make sure that you have to pay it back if you can, so there won't be all the defaults we have now. That will lower the cost of and the threshold of going to college for every young person in America who wants to deal with it.

So I want to increase access to college, but also it's very important for me to increase the number of people, starting in our high schools, who will engage in some form of service.

So I think it would be helpful to me to know—we can maybe start with the high school students. If you could talk a little bit about the service projects you've been involved in and why you do it and whether you think we can get a lot more people involved.

Who wants to go first?

[At this point, a student discussed her experience as a volunteer with the Girl Scouts of America and the importance of being a role model.]

The President. You know, one of the things that I think is good about this program is we're going to build on the organizations at work now and set it up on a State-by-State basis. And